

## Portland Harbor Superfund Site

Site Summary

The Portland Harbor Superfund Site in Portland, Oregon, is the result of more than a century of industrial use along the Willamette River.

Water and sediments along Portland Harbor are contaminated with many hazardous substances, including heavy metals, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH), dioxin, and pesticides. These compounds have been found to be harmful to people and the environment. Because of the contamination, some types of fish found in Portland Harbor, such as bass, carp and catfish currently pose a health risk to those who eat them.

Portland Harbor was added to EPA's [National Priorities List](#) in December 2000. The current study area extends from the Columbia Slough to the Broadway Bridge.

EPA and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality are working with potentially responsible parties to clean up contaminated sediment and control sources of additional contamination.

Current Status

**EPA Announces Proposed Plan for Portland Harbor:** The Proposed Plan for the Portland Harbor Superfund Site is now available for review and public comment. The Proposed Plan presents EPA’s preferred cleanup alternative and also describes other alternatives considered, the factors EPA used to compare and rank the alternatives, and estimated costs and construction timelines.

- Proposed Plan for the Portland Harbor Superfund Site (X pp, X MB) – May 2016

More details are available in the following technical report:

- Feasibility Study for the Portland Harbor Superfund Site (X pp, X MB) – May 2016

EPA has also prepared the following materials to help explain the Proposed Plan:

- Community Summary for the Proposed Plan (X pp, X MB) – May 2016
- Fact Sheet for the Proposed Plan (X pp, X MB) – May 2016
- Glossary of Terms for the Proposed Plan (X pp, X MB) – May 2016

The Administrative Record, a collection of documents that informed EPA’s proposed cleanup decision, is also available.

**EPA is accepting comments on the Proposed Plan for the Portland Harbor Superfund Site through July X, 2016.** Check out these [step-by-step tips for writing effective public comments](#) prepared by the Environmental Law Institute. EPA will be reviewing and considering the comments that are submitted. EPA will include responses to all comments that are received during the official public comment period in a responsiveness summary that will accompany the final cleanup plan (also called the ‘Record of Decision’).

Comments may be submitted to EPA via any of the following ways:

- Using EPA’s online Portland Harbor Proposed Plan comment form
- Email to:** [harborcomments@epa.gov](mailto:harborcomments@epa.gov)  
*Note: Form letters and petitions should be submitted to this e-mail address*
- Postal mail to:** ATTN: Harbor Comments, U.S. EPA, 805 SW Broadway St, Suite 500, Portland, OR 97205
- Attend an **official EPA public meeting**. During these public meetings, EPA will discuss the preferred cleanup alternative described in the Proposed Plan. EPA will also accept oral and written comments on the Plan during the meetings. EPA’s list of upcoming public meetings for the Portland Harbor Proposed Plan is below:

**Public Meeting Schedule**

**June 8**, 11am – 8pm, Portland Metropolitan Exposition Center, 2060 N Marine Dr, Portland OR 97217

**Language Interpretation:** *Spanish, Russian, Vietnamese and Chinese language interpretation will be available.*

**June 14**, 11am – 8pm, University Place Conference Center, 310 SW Lincoln St, Portland OR 97201

**Language Interpretation:** *Requests for language interpretation at this meeting must be received by **May 31** (two weeks in advance). Please contact Laura Knudsen at [knudsen.laura@epa.gov](mailto:knudsen.laura@epa.gov) or 503-326-3280 to request language interpretation for this meeting.*

**June 24**, 11am – 8pm, City of Portland Building, 1120 SW 5<sup>th</sup> Ave., Portland, OR 97205

**Language Interpretation:** *Requests for language interpretation at this meeting must be received by **June 10** (two weeks in advance). Please contact Laura Knudsen at [knudsen.laura@epa.gov](mailto:knudsen.laura@epa.gov) or 503-326-3280 to request language interpretation for this meeting.*

**June 29 or July 19**, 11am – 8pm, Ambridge Center, 1333 NE Martin Luther King Blvd, Portland OR 97232

**Language Interpretation:** *Requests for language interpretation at this meeting must be received by **X** (two weeks in advance). Please contact Laura Knudsen at*

Learn More

[Community Resources](#) (fact sheets and key information to review, mailing list)

[Early Action Cleanup Areas](#)

[Maps & Photos](#)

**Contact:**  
[Alanna Conley](mailto:conley.alanna@epa.gov) (conley.alanna@epa.gov)  
503-326-6831

**Lead State Agency:**  
[Oregon Department of Environmental Quality](#)  
[EXIT Disclaimer](#)

**Community Advisory Group:**  
[Portland Harbor Community Advisory Group](#)  
[EXIT Disclaimer](#)

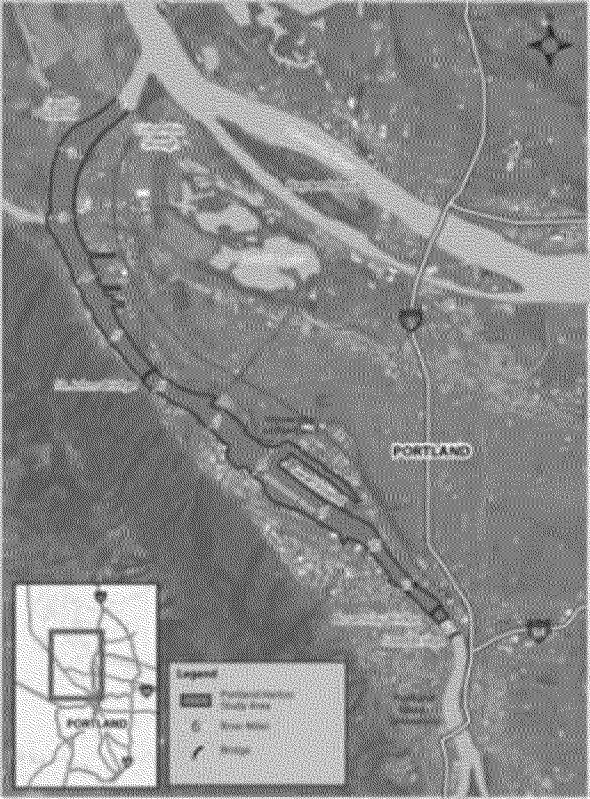
**Special accommodations:** Please contact [Alanna Conley](mailto:conley.alanna@epa.gov) (conley.alanna@epa.gov or 503-326-6831) if you would like to request special accommodations.

Join our mailing list

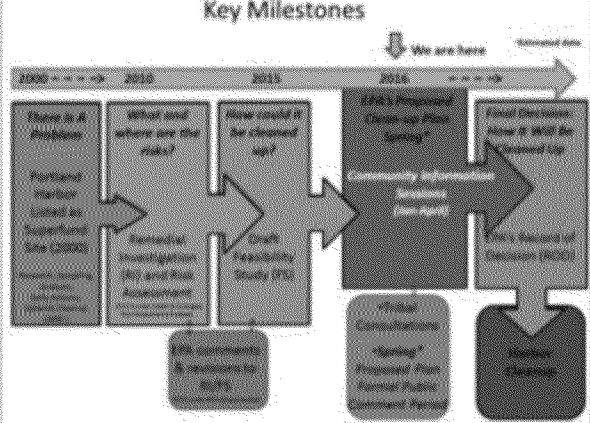
Sign up for email updates about the Portland Harbor Superfund Site:

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Key Milestones



Timeline of key milestones in the Superfund cleanup process (click on image for larger view).

<div>Portland Harbor Superfund Site (YOSEMITE SITE - OLD SITE) - MAIN PAGE</div> <div><div>Under Superfund page 06-10-15-2016</div><div>Highlighted yellow text signifies information that is subject to change   * **Red text signifies information that needs to be added/removed from the existing website</div></div>	
<div>All locations are easily accessible via MAX trains and bus lines.</div>	
<div>Past EPA-Hosted Community Information Sessions and Public Events Attended by EPA</div>	
<div>Although community involvement has been ongoing, EPA offered a series of community information sessions and attended public events from January to March in order to enhance engagement with community members and accomplish the following objectives:</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Provide background on Portland Harbor; Discuss why the cleanup matters to you and the community;</li><li>Explain why your input is very important and how you can be engaged.</li></ul></div> <div>A list of past events is below:</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Saturday, March 26</b>, Oregon Museum of Science &amp; Industry; EPA open house and information/discussion session with Spanish &amp; Russian interpretation and graphic facilitator Martha Bean. See the <u>graphic illustration</u> of the community discussion on submitting effective comments. Also see the other <u>illustration from the July community cafe</u>.</li><li><b>Wednesday, March 23</b>, Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization; EPA Open house and information/discussion session with Spanish &amp; Russian interpretation</li><li><b>Thursday, March 17</b>, Gray’s Landing-Community Room; EPA open house and information/discussion session</li><li><b>Monday, March 7</b>, North Portland Neighborhood Chairs Meeting; EPA informational presentation and group discussion</li><li><b>Tuesday, March 8</b>, Children’s Water Festival at the University of Portland; EPA presentations and interactive learning activities for youth</li><li><b>Thursday, March 3</b>, Live webinar; EPA online informational presentation and discussion session</li><li><b>Monday, February 29</b>, Portland Community College, Rock Creek; EPA informational presentation and group discussion</li><li><b>Tuesday, February 23</b>, Linnton Community Center; Public forum hosted by the Portland Harbor Community Advisory Group, EPA informational presentation and discussion</li><li><b>Thursday, February 18</b>, Woodrow Wilson High School Cafeteria; EPA open house and information/discussion session</li><li><b>Thursday, February 11</b>, Matt Dishman Community Center; EPA open house and information/discussion session</li><li><b>Wednesday, February 9</b>, League of Women Voters Public Forum; EPA presentation and question/answer session</li><li><b>Thursday, February 8</b>, Audubon Society; EPA open house and information/discussion session</li><li><b>Thursday, February 4</b>, Portland City Building Auditorium; EPA open house and information/discussion session</li><li><b>Sunday, January 31</b> Earth Care Summit at the University of Portland; EPA information booth and discussion</li><li><b>Wednesday, January 27</b>, North East Coalition of Neighborhoods - Land Use Transportation Committee; EPA informational presentation and discussion</li><li><b>Thursday, January 28</b>, Native American Youth Association (Youth Activity); EPA presentation and interactive learning activities for youth</li><li><b>Tuesday, January 26</b>, St. Johns Community Center; Public forum hosted by the Portland Harbor Community Advisory Group, EPA informational presentation and discussion</li><li><b>Tuesday, January 12</b>, Cathedral Park Neighborhood Association Meeting; EPA informational presentation and discussion</li></ul></div> <div>Questions?</div> <div>To learn more or receive updated notifications contact <u>Alanna Conley</u> (conley.alanna@epa.gov), 503-326-6831.</div>	
<div>Ecological Risk Assessment and Human Health Risk Assessment</div>	
<div>The Baseline Ecological Risk Assessment (BERA) was finalized December 2013. This report describes how animals, birds, fish, plants, and other creatures that live in the bottom of the river are exposed to contaminants at Portland Harbor, and estimates the amount of exposure to the contaminants. We will use the results of the ecological risk assessment, along with the feasibility study, remedial investigation, and human health risk assessment, to develop a proposed cleanup plan for Portland Harbor.</div> <div>The general conclusions of the final Human Health Risk Assessment for the Portland Harbor Superfund Site are:</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Eating resident fish such as catfish, bass, and carp from Portland Harbor is a health risk especially for recreational and subsistence fishers, and infants that are breast fed by mothers who eat resident fish;</li><li>PCBs are the primary contaminant associated with most of the risk from eating Portland Harbor fish; and</li><li>Health risks are great enough for cleanup to be needed under the Superfund law.</li></ul></div>	
<div>Proposed Confined Disposal Facility</div>	
<div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><u>Confined Disposal Facility (CDF) Frequently Asked Questions (PDF)</u> (14 pp, 208K) - January 2014</li><li><u>Confined Disposal Facility Quick Guide (PDF)</u> (2 pp, 524K) - September 2013</li></ul></div>	





Fact Sheets and Key Information to Review

Community Resources for the Proposed Plan:

- Community Summary for the Proposed Plan (X pp, X MB) – May 2016
- Fact Sheet for the Proposed Plan (X pp, X MB) – May 2016
- Glossary of Terms for the Proposed Plan (X pp, X MB) – May 2016

Other Useful Information:

- [Community Information Card \(PDF\)](#) (2 pp, 750K) | [En Espanol \(PDF\)](#) (2 pp, 730K) | [In Russian \(PDF\)](#) (2 pp, 655K) | [In Chinese \(PDF\)](#) (2 pp, 844K) | [In Vietnamese \(PDF\)](#) (2 pp, 800K) - 2015 updates
- Technology Overview Videos:
  - [Monitored Natural Recovery or MNR](#) (YouTube video, 5 minutes, 11 seconds)
  - [Dredging](#) (YouTube video, 5 minutes, 25 seconds)
  - [Capping](#) (YouTube video, 7 minutes, 47 seconds)
  - [Monitoring](#) (YouTube video, 5 minutes, 19 seconds)
- [Final Remedial Investigation Report \(PDF\)](#) (679 pp, 4.5MB) - February 8, 2016
- [Human Health Risk Assessment Summary \(PDF\)](#) (4 pp, 775K) - August 2013
- [Proposed Confined Disposal Facility Questions and Answers \(PDF\)](#) (19 pp, 100K) - January 13, 2013
- [Feasibility Study and Sitewide Update \(PDF\)](#) (4 pp, 600K) - April 2012
- [Portland Harbor Sitewide Update \(PDF\)](#) (3 pp, 99K) - July 2009
- [Human Health Risk Assessment Overview \(PDF\)](#) (2 pp, 28K) - February 2009
- [Community Involvement Plan \(PDF\)](#) (24 pp, 251K) - February 2002

Additional fact sheets about "early action" cleanup areas for Portland Harbor can be found at: [Arkema](#) | [Gasco-Siltronic](#) | [Terminal 4](#) | [Triangle Park](#) | [U.S. Moorings](#)

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Learn More

- [Portland Harbor home](#)
- [Maps & photos](#)

"Early Action" Cleanup Areas:

- [Arkema](#)
- [Gasco-Siltronic](#)
- [Terminal 4](#)
- [Triangle Park](#)
- [U.S. Moorings](#)

Other Portland Harbor Resources

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- [U.S. Fish and Wildlife](#)
- [Oregon Health Authority](#)
- [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration \(NOAA\)](#)

Where to Review Documents

Proposed Plan or Community Summary:

Both a hard copy of the Portland Harbor Proposed Plan for Cleanup and a hard copy of the Community Summary for the Proposed Plan are available at the following locations:

- [Multnomah County Central Library](#)

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801 SW 10th Avenue, Portland, OR 97205
- [St. Johns Library](#)

EXIT Disclaimer

  
7510 N Charleston Avenue, Portland, OR 97203
- [Historic Kenton Firehouse](#)

EXIT Disclaimer

  
8105 N. Brandon Avenue, Portland, OR 97217

Other Portland Harbor Superfund Site Documents:

Some documents are available in PDF format on our [Portland Harbor home page](#). For CD copies of documents or the [administrative record](#), please contact the following EPA offices:

- EPA Region 10 Oregon Operations Office**  
805 SW Broadway St., Suite 500  
Portland, Oregon 97205  
503-326-3250 (please call for an appointment)
- EPA Region 10 Superfund Records Center**  
1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900, ECL-076  
Seattle, WA 98101  
206-553-4494 (please call for an appointment)

You can also review electronic copies of many technical documents, fact sheets, and other site documents in PDF format at the following location:

- [Multnomah County Central Library](#)

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801 SW 10th Avenue, Portland, OR 97205

Community Advisory Group

*A Superfund Community Advisory Group is made up of members of the community and serves as the focal point for the exchange of information between the community and EPA, state regulatory agencies, and other federal agencies involved in cleanup.*

Portland Harbor Community Advisory Group [EXIT Disclaimer](#) is EPA's designated CAG for the Portland Harbor Superfund site. Monthly CAG meetings are held on the second Wednesday of every month at 6pm. Contact 503-285-4805 for more information.

Who pays for the investigation and cleanup?

EPA's policy is to have the responsible parties pay for cleaning up pollution they created. Responsible parties can be past or present company owners, or land owners that EPA determines played a role in the contamination of the Portland Harbor. Under Superfund law, EPA may negotiate with the responsible parties to get them to pay for the plans and work necessary to clean up the site. If an agreement cannot be reached, EPA may take legal action to force them to clean up the site under EPA supervision. We may also use money from the Superfund Trust Fund to pay for cleanup costs, then attempt to get the money back through future legal action.

**Lower Willamette Group**

The [Lower Willamette Group](#) [EXIT Disclaimer](#) is a coalition of responsible parties comprised of businesses and public agencies that came forward to participate in the investigation of the Portland Harbor site. The members of the Lower Willamette Group and EPA have a legal agreement called an *Administrative Order on Consent*, and a *Statement of Work* which outline (1) how a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study will be prepared, (2) who will perform the work, and (3) how EPA will recover costs incurred by EPA and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.

- [Administrative Order on Consent - Lower Willamette Group \(PDF\)](#) (50 pp, 91K)
- [Statement of Work - Lower Willamette Group \(PDF\)](#) (41 pp, 91K)

**General Notice Letters** - Superfund "General Notice Letters" inform recipients that they are identified as a Potentially Responsible Party and may be liable for cleanup costs at the site.

- [Entities that received a General Notice Letter from EPA \(PDF\)](#) (18 pp, 51K) - Updated September 2014
- [EPA's Small Business Resources Information Sheet \(PDF\)](#) (2 pp, 212K)
- [Learn more about Superfund Notice of Liability letters](#)

**Information Collection Requests** - We're continuing to send Superfund Information Collection Requests (**also called "CERCLA 104e letters"**) to current and former property owners near the site to help us learn more about known or suspected releases of contamination.

- [Entities that received an Information Collection Request from EPA \(PDF\)](#) (18 pp, 78K)
- [Q&A for Portland Harbor area businesses \(PDF\)](#) (1 pg, 23K)
- [Learn more about Superfund Information Collection Request Letters](#)

Contact Us

**General questions:**

- [Alanna Conley](#) (conley.alanna@epa.gov), Community Involvement Coordinator, 503-326-6831

**Technical questions:**

- [Kristine Koch](#) (koch.kristine@epa.gov), Project Manager (Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study), 206-553-6705
- [Sean Sheldrake](#) (sheldrake.sean@epa.gov), Project Manager (Early Actions), 206-553-1220
- [Anne Christopher](#) (christopher.anne@epa.gov), Project Manager, 503-326-6554